

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1945

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ASUNCION 47

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FOR ARA/ECA ONLY

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASIG, PA
SUBJECT: 1977 INSPECTION COMPLIANCE REPORT ASUNCION PARAGUAY

REF RONDON/BRIGGS LETTER NOVEMBER 19, 1977

1. RECOMMENDATION 3.2-1 THE DEPARTMENT (DG/PER) SHOULD GIVE STRONG CONSIDERATION -- AS RESOURCES AND AVAILABILITIES PERMIT -- TO ALLOTING A JUNIOR OFFICER ROTATIONAL POSITION TO EMBASSY ASUNCION.

COMMENT: THE POST SUPPORT THIS RECOMMENDATION. WHILE IT WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE JUNIOR OFFICER POSITION REINSTATED, BECAUSE OF THE UPSURGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY (MOSTLY IN HUMAN RIGHTS), THE ASSIGNMENT OF A CAPABLE, BROAD GAUGE JUNIOR ROTATIONAL OFFICER WOULD ALLEVIATE A NUMBER OF PRSSURES IN SEVERAL SECTIONS AND PROVIDE THE OFFICER WITH A VALUABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

THE POST WOULD WISH TO BE GIVEN CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY IN PROGRAMMING THE ROTATIONAL OFFICER. IT WOULD ANTICIPATE ASSIGNING HIM HALF TIME TO THE POLITICAL SECTION FOR THE DURATION OF HIS STAY IN ASUNCION. THIS COULD PROBABLY BEST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY HAVING HIM REPORT HALF DAYS TO THE POLITICAL SECTION, WHERE HIS SERVICES WOULD BE MOST IN DEMAND.

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THE REMAINDER OF HIS TIME WOULD BE SPENT IN THE JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONSULAR SECTIONS, AND IN USIS.

2. RECOMMENDATION 3.3-2 AT EMBASSY ASUNCION, THE WORK REQUIREMENTS STATEMENT OF THE SECOND ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER SHOULD SPECIFY THE DUTIES AND PORTIONS OF TIME TO BE SPENT ON POLITICAL MATTERS.

COMPLIANCE: THE WORK REQUIREMENTS STATEMENT OF THE NEW JUNIOR OFFICER READS: "KEEP ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS IN FOREIGN RELATIONS, INTERNAL SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTING ON SPECIFIC EVENTS AS DIRECTED BY THE POLITICAL OFFICER, OR IN HIS ABSENCE REPORTING ON ALL POLITICAL MATTERS. PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR BIOGRAPHIC REPORTING, PUBLICATIONS, GRAPHICS, AND PROTOCOL."

3. RECOMMENDATION 5.2-1 EMBASSY ASUNCION SHOULD ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT WHICH POSITIONS IT PLANS TO USE AS CONSULAR BACK-UP OFFICERS ...

COMPLIANCE: THIS WAS DONE PRIOR TO THE INSPECTION. SEE ASUNCION 1421. THE JUNIOR E/C OFFICER FILLS THIS ROLE.

4. RECOMMENDATION 6.2-2 THE DEPARTMENT (CU) AND EMBASSY ASUNCION SHOULD CONSIDER REESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR LONG-TERM STUDY GRANTS IN THE US IF NECESSARY FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.

COMPLIANCE: THE DEPARTMENT HAS PROVIDED POST TWO ADDITIONAL IV GRANTS AND HAS EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE CIEC SCHOLARS TO LOCAL UNIVERSITIES. GIVEN THE ATTEMPTED POLITIZATION OF THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM (AFFECTING US-BOUND PARTICIPANTS) IN THE PAST, THE POST PREFERS NOT TO RECONSTITUTE THE COMMISSION BUT TO HANDLE LONG-TERM GRANTS ON AN AD HOC BASIS WITH WASHINGTON.

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5. RECOMMENDATION 7.2-1 THE DEPARTMENT (ARA/MGT AND DG/PER) SHOULD ABOLISH POSITION NO. 51-057, PERSONNEL OFFICER, AT EMBASSY ASUNCION.

COMMENT: THE EMBASSY OPPOSES THIS RECOMMENDATION. ELIMINATION OF THE PERSONNEL OFFICER POSITION WOULD CREATE A GREAT DEAL OF HARDSHIP IN MANAGING THE JAO. THE PERSONNEL OFFICER SERVICES 79 DIRECT HIRE AND CONTRACT AMERICANS AND 124 LOCAL EMPLOYEES. TO EXPECT THE JAO OFFICER TO ABSORB THE DUTIES OF THIS POSITION IN ADDITION TO THOSE HE ALREADY MUST CARRY OUT, I.E., SUPERVISION OF GSO, B&F, C&R, AND RSO FOR AN EMBASSY THIS SIZE WOULD SERIOUSLY IMPAIR HIS EFFICIENCY AND THAT OF THE PERSONNEL FUNCTION. THE INSPECTORS NOTED THAT -THIS WOULD RESULT IN SOME LOSS OF TIME DEVOTED TO JAO COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND TO GENERAL SUPERVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTION." THE POST BELIEVES THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS WOULD BE MUCH MORE PRONOUNCED IF THE PERSONNEL OFFICER POSITION WERE ELIMINATED. ADMINISTERING A JAO IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLICATED FUNCTIONS IN THE MANAGEMENT FIELD. IT TAKES ALL OF THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO AN EXPERIENCED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TO CARRY OUT THESE VARIED FUNCTION. IF ONE WEAKENS THESE CAPABILITIES ONE WEAKENS THE JAO.

THE EMBASSY IN 1975-76 PROPOSED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO COMBINING THE PERSONNEL AND SECURITY FUNCTIONS. IT STILL BELIEVES THAT SOME STREAMLINING OF JAO IS FEASIBLE, AND NOW THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS ELIMINATED THE RSO POSITION EFFECTIVE UPON THE DEPARTURE OF THE INCUMBENT IN THE SPRING OF 1978, IT URGES THAT THE SECURITY FUNCTION BE TRANSFERRED TO THE PERSONNEL OFFICER WHO WOULD REPLACE THE INCUMBENT, NEXT JUNE. THE NEW PERSONNEL OFFICER WOULD HAVE TO HAVE SOME TRAINING IN SECURITY PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

6. RECOMMENDATION 7.2-2 THE DEPARTMENT (PER/PPM) SHOULD PROVIDE TO EMBASSY ASUNCION THE RATIONALE USED ON THE RECENT WAGE SURVEY AND THE EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY IT TO FSL EMPLOYEES.
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1946

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ASUNCION 47

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COMMENT: IT IS MORE THAN A YEAR SINCE THE SURVEY, WHICH ASSUREDLY CREATED SERIOUS MORALE PROBLEMS HERE. SINCE THEN, THERE HAS BEEN AN ADDITIONAL ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE FOLLOWING A SPOT SURVEY, WHICH HAS REPAIRED THE DAMAGE DONE TO FSL MORALE BY THE 1975-76 WAGE SURVEY. THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO POINT IN OPENING OLD WOUNDS WITH LONG AFTER-THE-FACT EXPLANATIONS OF WHAT WENT AWRY IN 1975-76.

7. RECOMMENDATION 7.2-3 EMBASSY ASUNCION SHOULD PREPARE A NEW DSP-23 RETAIL PRICE SCHEDULE, HOTEL AND RESTAURANT SECTION, AND SUBMIT IT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE (A/ALS).
COMPLIANCE: DSP-23 WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT ON OCTOBER 6, 1977.

8. RECOMMENDATION 7.2-4 EMBASSY ASUNCION SHOULD REPROGRAM LOCAL GENERAL SERVICES POSITIONS O AS TO PROVIDE A PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CLERK RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING PROPERTY RECORDS ON A CURRENT BASIS.
COMPLIANCE: ACCOMPLISHED.

9. RECOMMENDATION 7.2-5 EMBASSY ASUNCION SHOULD TAKE A PHYSICAL INVENTORY OF EXPENDABLE SUPPLIES SO THAT PERPETRUAL INVENTORY CARDS MAY BE USED EFFECTIVELY FOR CONTROL PURPOSES.
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COMPLIANCE: THE PHYSICAL INVENTORY IS UNDER WAY.

10. RECOMMENDATION 7.2-6 EMBASSY ASUNCION SHOULD ENSURE THAT LOCATOR CARDS FOR NONEXPENDABLE PROPERTY ARE POST CURRENTLY.
COMPLIANCE: THESE CARDS ARE NOW POSTED CURRENTLY.

11. RECOMMENDATION 7.2-7 EMBASSY ASUNCION SHOULD REQUEST THE SERVICE OF AN A/FBO ARCHITECT TO ADVISE ON THE OPTIMUM USE OF OFFICE SPACE.
COMPLIANCE: THE POST FORMALLY REQUESTED A/FBO TO SEND AN ARCHITECT TO ADVISE IT ON MAXIMUM SPACE UTILIZATION, IN OCTOBER. AN A/FBO DRAUGHTSMAN VISITED THE POST, DREW UP A COPY OF THE EXISTING FLOOR PLAN, AND ASKED THE POST TO ADVISE A/FBO ON WHAT WOULD BE MAXIMUM SPACE UTILITZATION. ALTHOUGH THE POST WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE EXPERT ADVICE (RATHER THAN MERELY A FLOOR PLAN) FROM A/FBO, IT WILL TRY TO COMPLY WITH A/FBO'S WISHES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

12. RECOMMENDATION 8.2-1 EMBASSY ASUNCION SHOULD APPOINT A REVIEW PANEL TO REVIEW OERS ON AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REVISED INSTRUCTIONS ON PREPARING OERS (OF-266).
COMPLIANCE: A REVIEW PANEL WAS APPOINTED ON JUNE 24, 1977.

13. RECOMMENDATION 11.2A-1 EMBASSY ASUNCION SHOULD INSTRUCT THE COMISSARY BOARD TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH THE COMISSARY MANAGER COVERING A ONE-YEAR PERIOD.
COMPLIANCE: THE COMISSARY BOARD HAS DRAWN UP A CONTRACT WHICH WILL BE USED FOR A NEW MANAGER, WHEN HE/SHE IS HIRED.
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